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JUL 29 2004

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PATENT

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of )  
GEORGE C. ZGURIS )Serial No. 10/004,539 )  
Confirmation No. 3997 )  
Filed October 22, 2001 )For: MAT OF GLASS AND OTHER )  
FIBERS AND METHOD FOR )  
PRODUCING SUCH MAT )Examiner: Ms. Angela J. Martin  
Art Unit: 1745  
Attorney Docket: 156-0170

## RESPONSE

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This communication is in response to an Official action dated July 01, 2004.  
Reconsideration and withdrawal of the several grounds for rejection are respectfully requested in  
view of the following discussion.

## REMARKS

Claims 52 and 75 are rejected (35 U.S.C. 102 (b)) as anticipated by or, in the alternative,  
under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as obvious over Nelson et al., U.S. patent No. 4,606,982. The rejection  
states:

"Nelson et al. teach a storage battery comprising a plurality of lead plates in a  
closed case (abstract), a fibrous sheet plate separator between adjacent plates, and sulfuric  
acid electrolyte, the improvement wherein the separator sheets consist essentially of  
intermeshed glass fibers, the mass of fibers has a BET surface area of from about 1.5 to  
about 3.0 m<sup>2</sup>/g of glass (col 4, lines 23-40).

"Thus, the claim is anticipated.

"However, in the alternative, the claim is obvious when the reference teaches a  
product that appears to be the same as, or an obvious variant of, the product set forth in a